Railway Accidents

376. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Railway Research considered ways for averting and minimising rail accidents, including railway level crossing accidents at its 20th meeting held in the first week of June, 1984;

(b) whether installation of modern and sophisticated devices was also considered at the meeting for minimising accidents; and

(c) what are the details of such equipments to be installed for the purpose, in the light of the Board's deliberations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) The Central Board of Railway Research, which is the apex advisory body for Railway research and development, at its 20th meeting on 5-6-84 deliberated on the scope and direction of research including safety in train operation.

(b) and (c) The safety items on which work is being done include warning device for level crossings, streamlining ultra-sonic rail flaw detection; micro processor-based track monitoring car, train parting indication device, indigenous hot box detector.

Improvement in the Irrigation Sector during Sixth Plan

379. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in the irrigation sector during the first four years of the Sixth Plan has fallen far short of the targets, if so, what are the year-wise targets and extent of short-fall;

(b) what are the main reasons for the short-fall; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make good the shortfall during the last year of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : (a) A statement indicating year-wise approved outlays, expenditure and shortfalls, if any, in the Irrigation Sector during the first four years of Sixth Plan is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXXXI, Annexure No. 7] It will be seen from the statement that while there are shortfalls in the case of major and medium sector and institutional outlays on minor Irrigation, taken as a whole for the four years, the public sector expenditure on Minor Irrigation has exceeded the approved outlays.

(b) The main reason for the shortfall in major and medium sector is constraints of financial resources. The reasons for the shortfall in Institutional Sector include non-utilisation of funds committed by NABARD, high overdues position of Banks which restrict their lending eligibility and non-availability of subsidy to small and marginal farmers under the integrated rural development programme operated by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) Owing to continuing constraints on financial resources it may not be possible to make good the shortfall during the last year of the Plan.

Population Growth in Madhya Pradesh

380. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the growth of population per thousand in Madhya Pradesh during 1981-82, 1982-83 and